LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying recorded sound signals comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a sound stream containing at least a portion of an unidentified recorded sound;

b) processing the received sound stream to construct a set of values corresponding to characteristics of the unidentified recorded sound;

c) searching a library having a plurality of sets of values corresponding to characteristics of a plurality of identified recorded sounds; and

d) comparing the constructed set of values to one or more sets of values in the library.

2. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, further including a step of selecting an identified recorded sound to the unidentified recorded sound based on a result of the comparing step c).

3. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 2, further including a step of returning information relating to the selected identified recorded sound to the user.

4. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the unidentified recorded sound is provided to the user over a transmission medium.

5. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein the transmission medium includes acoustic waves.

6. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein the transmission medium includes radio waves.

7. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein the transmission medium includes digital audio streams.

8. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein the transmission medium includes PCM streams.

9. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein the transmission medium includes internet streaming broadcasts.

10. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein the digital audio stream is compressed.

11. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein the compressed digital audio stream is a Dolby Digital or MP3 audio stream.

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 3, wherein the information is returned over a first delivery channel, the first delivery channel including a user interface selected from the group consisting of real-time reporting interfaces and offline reporting interfaces.

13. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12, wherein the real-time reporting interface is an interactive voice response interface.

14. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12, wherein the reported information is provided to the user as a voice report.

15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12, wherein the real-time reporting interface is a WAP browser interface.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12, wherein the offline reporting interface is an internet browser interface.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sound stream is received over a second delivery channel selected from the group consisting of POTS lines, wireless cellular, wireless PCM, GSM, internet, radio, satellite, and a network

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17, wherein the network includes a local area network.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17, wherein the network includes an Ethernet network.

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17, wherein the network includes one or more private networks.

21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17, wherein the network includes a cable network.

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17, wherein the network operates according to a short-range wireless protocol.

23. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 22, wherein short-range wireless protocol includes the Bluetooth wireless standard.

24. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sound stream is captured by a capture device operated by a user.

25. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 24, wherein the capture devices includes a telephone.

26. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 24, wherein the capture devices includes a mobile telephone.

27. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 24, wherein the capture devices includes a tape recorder.

28. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 24, wherein the capture devices includes a digital voice recorder.

29. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 24, wherein the capture devices includes an answering machine.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 24, wherein the capture devices includes a radio receiver.

31. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 24, wherein the capture devices includes a walkie-talkie.

32. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 24, wherein the capture devices includes an internet streaming socket.

33. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 24, wherein the capture devices includes a voice-over-IP transceivers.

34. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 2, wherein the result is obtained by determining a score associated with the constructed set of values and one or more sets of values in the library.

35. (Previously Presented) A method for providing a transaction to a user exposed to a media stream, the method comprising:

receiving a signal including a captured sample of a media stream from the user, said media stream comprising music;

determining from the signal a characteristic of the captured sample; and

triggering a predetermined transaction with the user involving the music in response to the determined characteristic.

36. (Original) The method according to claim 35, wherein the predetermined transaction includes sales and purchase of merchandise.

37. (Original) The method according to claim 35, wherein the predetermined transaction includes an offer for sale of merchandise.

38. (Original) The method according to claim 37, wherein the offer for sale of merchandise includes an offer to sell recordings of music.

39. (Original) The method according to claim 38, wherein the recording is related to a characteristic of the captured sample.

40. (Original) The method according to claim 35, wherein the predetermined transaction includes furnishing and receiving information.

41. (Original) The method according to claim 35, wherein the predetermined transaction includes delivery of advertising or promotional offers.

42. (Original) The method according to claim 41, wherein the promotional offers include trial offers.

43. (Original) The method according to claim 41, wherein the promotional offers include offers to sell merchandise or services at discounted prices.

44. (Original) The method according to claim 35, wherein the predetermined transaction includes an exchange of information between a sales source and the user attendant to a sale of merchandise or services to the user.

45. (Original) The method according to claim 37, wherein the offer is selected in response to a profile of the user.

46. (Original) The method according to claim 37, wherein the offer is selected in response to history of transactions completed with the user.

47. (Previously Presented) A method for identifying music to a user comprising:
receiving a signal including a captured sample of the music from the user; wherein the music is received by the user via radio broadcast and the captured sample includes a sample of the radio broadcast;
determining from the signal a characteristic of the captured sample;
comparing the characteristic of the captured sample to a characteristic associated with an identity records contained in a database; and
locating an identity record corresponding to the captured sample according to a result of the comparison.

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, further including returning the identity record to the user.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, further including offering to sell to the user a recording including at least a song which corresponds to the located identity record.

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, further including offering to provide to the user information relating to the located identity record.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, further including a step of playing a recording of a song corresponding to the located identity record to the user.

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, further including a step of offering to sell merchandise.

54. (Original) The method according to claim 53, wherein the merchandise relates to the located identity record.

55. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, further including offering to sell live performance tickets.

56. (Original) The method according to claim 55, wherein the live performance tickets relate to the located identity record.

57. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, further including offering to sell record albums to be released at a future time.

58. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, further including offering to provide information pertaining to a location of retail music establishments.

59. (Original) The method according to claim 58, wherein the information further includes information pertaining to a location of retail music establishments that are in close proximity to the user.

60. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, further including downloading media to a user device.

61. (Original) The method according to claim 60, wherein the download media includes a pre-recorded song corresponding to the located identity record.

62. (Original) The method according to claim 60, wherein the user device is selected from the group consisting of PCs, PDAs, internet access devices, wireless internet devices, mobile telephones, wireless information devices, and pagers.

63. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, further including receiving commands from the user in response to the returned identity record.

64. (Original) The method according to claim 63, further including performing an additional predetermined step in response to the command.

65. (Original) The method according to claim 64, wherein the predetermined step includes delivering a message to a third party.

66. (Original) The method according to claim 65, wherein the message includes a recommendation of music corresponding to the located identity record.

67. (Original) The method according to claim 64, wherein the predetermined step includes a collection of data indicative of music popularity.

68. (Original) The method according to claim 67, wherein the collected data includes data received from the user.

69. (Original) The method according to claim 64, wherein the predetermined step includes playing additional songs not associated with the located identity record to the user.

70. (Original) The method according to claim 64, wherein the predetermined step includes locating one or more music performance artists marching a predetermined criterion.

71. (Original) The method according to claim 70, wherein the criterion includes similarity of the one or more music performance artists to an artist associated with the located identity record.

72. (Original) The method according to claim 64, wherein the predetermined step includes providing a critical review of a music performance artist associated with the located identity record.

73. (Original) The method according to claim 64, wherein the predetermined step includes providing critical review of a record album containing a song corresponding to the located identity record.

74. (Original) The method according to claim 64, wherein the predetermined step includes providing information pertaining to popularity of a song or music performance artist associated with the located identity record.

75. (Original) The method according to claim 64, wherein the predetermined step includes delivering information to the user.

76. (Original) The method according to claim 75, wherein the information pertains to the located identity record.

77. (Original) The method according to claim 75, wherein the information is delivered in an SMS format.

78. (Original) The method according to claim 75, wherein the information pertains to new album releases.

79. (Original) The method according to claim 76, wherein the information pertains to scheduling of concerts.

80. (Original) The method according to claim 79, wherein the concert is related to the located identity record.

81. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, further including storing the captured sample.

82. (Original) The method according to claim 64, wherein the predetermined step includes delivering an excerpt of a recording of a song corresponding to the located identity record.

83. (Original) The method according to claim 72, wherein the excerpt is delivered to the user.

84. (Original) The method according to claim 72, wherein the excerpt is delivered to a third party.

85. (Previously Presented) A method for identifying music to a user exposed to a broadcast that includes unidentified music, comprising:

receiving a signal including a captured sample of the broadcast from the user, said broadcast comprising music;

determining from the signal a characteristic of the captured sample;

comparing the characteristic of the captured sample to a characteristic associated with an identity record contained in a database;

attempting to locate an identity record corresponding to the captured sample according to a result of the comparison; and

e) storing the captured sample if the location attempt is unsuccessful.

86. (Original) The method according to claim 85, further including delivering the captured sample to remote locations.

87. (Original) The method according to claim 85, wherein the delivered captured samples are used in games or contests involving attempts to identify the unidentified music.

88. (Previously Presented) A method for identifying music to a user exposed to a broadcast, which includes unidentified music, comprising:

receiving a signal including a captured sample of the broadcast from the user, said broadcast comprising music;

determining from the signal a characteristic of the captured sample;

comparing the characteristic of the captured sample to a characteristic associated with an identity record contained in a database;

attempting to locate an identity record corresponding to the captured sample according to a result of the comparison; and

e) providing an interactive interface for the user to store manipulate data associated with a successfully located identity record.

89. (Original) The method according to claim 88, wherein the interface is selected from the group consisting of real-time interfaces, offline interfaces, and combinations thereof.

90. (Original) The method according to claim 89, wherein the offline interface is selected from the group consisting of internet browsers, email, SMS messaging, and combinations thereof.

91. (Original) The method according to claim 88, wherein the interface is arranged to allow the user to store, retrieve and forward the data.

92. (Original) The method according to claim 88, wherein the interface is arranged to allow the user to communicate with third parties.

93. (Original) The method according to claim 88, wherein the interface is arranged to allow the user to participate in games or contests.

94. (Original) The method according to claim 93, wherein the games or contests include identifying unidentified songs.

95. (Original) The method according to claim 88, wherein the interface is arranged to allow the user to forward data to a website.

96. (Original) The method according to claim 95, wherein the website is configured to provide personalized radio station services to the user.

97. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for identifying music to a user exposed to a broadcast that includes music unidentified to the user comprising:

a) a receiver arranged to receive a signal including a captured sample of the broadcast from the user;

b) a signal analyzer for determining from the signal a characteristic of the captured sample;

c) a database containing a library of identity records; and

d) a comparator that compares the determined characteristic to characteristics associated with identity records contained in the database for locating an identity record that matches the captured sample.

98. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 97, further including a transmitter for transmitting information related to the located identity record to the user.

99. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 97, further including an interactive voice response unit.

100. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 99, wherein the interactive voice response unit is operated from a script which includes an offer to sell to the user a music recording including at least a song which corresponds to the located identity record.

101. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 99, wherein the interactive voice response unit is operated from a script which includes an offer to provide to the user information relating to the located identity record.

102. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 97, further including a music player for playing a recording of a song corresponding to the located identity record to the user.

103. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 97, further including a music downloader for downloading a recording of a song corresponding to the located identity record to the user.

104. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 103, wherein the downloader downloads the recording to a user device.

105. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 104, wherein the user device is selected from the group consisting of PCs, PDAs, internet access devices, wireless internet devices, mobile telephones, wireless information devices, and pagers.

106. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying recorded sound signals comprising:
a) receiving a signal including a captured sample of an audio signal;
b) deriving from the signal a characteristic of the captured sample;
c) comparing the characteristic of the captured sample to a characteristic associated with a stored identity record of identified sound signals contained in a database; and
d) determining a probability of a match between the audio signal and a stored identity record using the results of the comparing in step c).

107. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting use of copyrighted audio media, the method comprising:

a) receiving a signal including a captured sample of an audio signal;

b) deriving from the signal a characteristic of the captured sample;

c) comparing the characteristic of the captured sample to a characteristic associated with a stored identity record of copyrighted audio media contained in a database; and

d) determining a probability of a match between the audio signal and a stored identity record using the results of the comparing step c).